

COUNCIL MINUTES - DECEMBER 30, 1958

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Torrance, California
December 30, 1958

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a regular meeting at 5:30 P. M. Tuesday, December 30, 1958, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California.

Those responding to roll call by Deputy City Clerk Whitacre were:
COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Bradford, Drale, Jahn, Isen. ABSENT:
COUNCILMEN: Beasley. City Manager Stevens and City Attorney Remelmeyer were also present.

At the request of Mayor Isen, Mr. George Vico led the salute to our Flag.

The meeting was opened with an invocation by the Reverend Wendell Hook of the Walteria Community Methodist Church.

Councilman Benstead moved to approve the Minutes of the meeting held December 23, 1958, as written.

Motion seconded by Councilman Drale, no objections, so ordered.

Mayor Isen commented that this was the last meeting of this year, which has been a good one for the City industrially and commercially; the Council has worked with the Chamber of Commerce, the merchants, and the Schools to improve the City.

Mayor Isen extended the best wishes of the Council to Mr. D. W. Mansfield, who has served as our Assistant City Manager for over three years now, and who is going to the City of Bell as their first Administrator.

APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS:

Mayor Isen said that two terms are expiring, one on the Park & Recreation Commission and one on the Civil Service Board. He nominated the Reverend Milton Sipple, whose term is expiring on the Park & Recreation Commission, for another 4-year term, and nominated Mr. Ross Sciarrotta, whose term is expiring on the Civil Service Board, for another 4-year term.

Upon being polled, the Council was unanimous in approval of these two re-appointments, (Beasley absent).

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

1. A December 17, 1958, letter from the County of Los Angeles Regional Planning Commission, signed by Fred M. Gebhart, Chief Deputy for Milton Breivogel, Director of Planning, submitted a certified copy of Amendment No. 286 to the Master Plan of Highways.

In reply to a question, the City Manager said this Amendment did away with a planned road which has always been a 'paper' plan. He saw no reason why this should be protested.

There were no objections, and the communication was ordered filed.

2. A December 23, 1958, letter from the State of California Department of Public Works, Division of Highways, was signed by B. S. Burgess, District Traffic Engineer, for L. R. Gillis, District Engineer. This letter referred to our request for the installation of traffic signals at 174th and Arlington Ave., and modification of the existing signals at 174th St. at Crenshaw Blvd. and Western Avenue to 3-phase operation. The letter advised that their study was expanded to include all intersections on 174th St. between Yukon and Western Avenues. This

study indicated that the installation of traffic signals with high intensity lighting at Arlington Ave., and the 3-phasing of the signals at Crenshaw Blvd. and Western Ave. are advisable. The letter also stated that the formal participation agreements are now being drawn up and will be forwarded at a later date.

Councilman Jahn moved their survey be accepted and that we prepare the proper papers.

Motion seconded by Councilman Drale.

The City Manager said we have been in constant touch with the State on this and other signals. They say we can expedite this if we will prepare the plans. He recommended that we do this.

Councilman Jahn said that had been the intent of his motion.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present, (Beasley absent).

3. A December 24, 1958, letter from the District Attorney reported that the addition to the building at South Bay will be completed and ready for occupancy the last of June, 1959. Mr. Julian R. Blodgett, Chief of the Bureau of Investigation, asked if they could continue to occupy the present quarters in the old City Hall building, Room 12, 1511 Cravens.

A December 26 memo from the City Manager was appended and recommended that the request be granted.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation of the City Manager.

Motion seconded by Councilman Benstead, no objections, so ordered.

Councilman Benstead asked if they would pay a small rental for the space, and the City Manager thought they would.

4. A letter from the Chamber of Commerce, 1345 El Prado, signed by Fred W. Mill, President, contained a request that the parking meters be extended to accommodate 2-hour parking. The letter also reported that this recommendation was approved by both the Downtown Retail Merchants Division and had been unanimously approved by the Board of Directors.

Councilman Drale moved to concur, saying he thought the suggestion a good one, and that the 1-hour meters could be moved to areas where they are needed.

The City Manager explained that our meter heads are interchangeable, and can be changed for about \$3 per meter.

Lt. Don Nash of the Police Dept., in reply to a question, said we have about 700 parking meters.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation.

Motion seconded by Councilman Bradford.

Councilman Benstead asked why, and wanted to know if anyone was present from the Chamber of Commerce to discuss this. He said he would like to know if the meters have hurt business in downtown Torrance.

Councilman Bradford said he understood that many shoppers think an hour is not long enough for shopping, and that Mr. Dorsey, the Traffic Consultant who was employed by the City to make a survey of the situation, had said he would recommend 2-hour meters eventually. He believed this would cost the City no revenue, and would actually help sales.

Mayor Isen said he understood that during the moratorium on the meters which the Council had declared over Christmas, many merchants and employees in downtown Torrance had taken advantage of it and parked in front of their stores.

Councilman Jahn asked if this plan was to change only the meters in the central downtown area, or all of them.

Councilman Bradford thought this meant all meters.

Councilman Benstead asked where the money would come from for this change, and the City Manager said we have it in the Parking Meter Fund.

Councilman Drale did not think all the meters should be changed; he had believed the meters would be changed to 2-hour meters where needed, but otherwise they would be unchanged.

The City Manager said at present there is limited parking in front of banks and the post office, and he thought that should not be changed.

Councilman Jahn asked to amend the motion to specify that 24-minute meters now in use not be changed.

Councilman Drale accepted the amendment to the motion, and there was no protest from the second.

Motion, as amended, carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Bradford, Drale, Jahn, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Beasley.

Councilman Benstead said he had voted 'No' until he knows whether the meters have hurt business in the downtown area.

Mayor Isen said actually business has been very good, and has exceeded that of last year.

This was discussed briefly.

Mayor Isen moved that the proper Ordinance to conform with the motion be prepared by the City Attorney.

Motion seconded by Councilman Drale, and carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Bradford, Drale, Jahn, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Beasley.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER:

1. In a letter dated December 26, 1958, the City Manager submitted the following recommendations for consideration and approval:

PERSONNEL:

- a. The Secretary of the Civil Service Board wishes to call to your attention the fact that the term of office of Mr. Ross Sciarrotta will expire on January 15, 1959.
- b. That Mr. John V. Russell be retained after January 1, 1959, as Director of Public Works on a month-to-month basis, until the position is filled.
- c. That Ronald W. Bishop, Senior Design Engineer, be appointed Acting City Engineer on a temporary basis until the position is filled.

Item a had been acted upon earlier in the meeting.

Councilman Jahn moved to concur with Items b and c under Personnel.

Councilman Bradford seconded the motion, saying he believed the Acting City Engineer should also be on a 'month-to-month' basis until the position is filled.

Mayor Isen asked that the phrase 'on a temporary basis' under Item c be corrected to read 'on a month-to-month basis'.

There were no objections and it was so ordered.

Councilman Jahn, with the consent of his second, changed his motion to concur with Item b under Personnel.

Motion seconded by Councilman Drale, and carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Bradford, Drale, Jahn, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Beasley.

Councilman Jahn moved to concur with Item c under Personnel.

Motion seconded by Councilman Bradford and carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present (Beasley absent).

Councilman Drale asked the City Manager if a new examination is being called for the position of Director of Public Works.

The City Manager answered affirmatively, saying today had been the closing date, and that the other is 'in the mill' now.

BUS TERMINAL AT TORRANCE:

"In September I recommended that the contracts for operating Bus Terminals in Torrance and in Los Angeles be continued on the same basis for the period of one year.

"Mr. Charley Gotts, who operates the Torrance Terminal, indicated at that time that he was not willing to continue on the same basis, and that we should negotiate a new contract.

"As a result of the negotiations, Mr. Gotts has expressed a willingness to continue the contract on a basis that he receive 15% of the gross sales of tickets made at the Terminal, instead of the present 10%. Mr. Chamberlain estimates that this would amount to approximately \$150 per month additional cost to the City. This does not seem unreasonable, considering that the City does not pay any rental or maintenance at this Terminal.

"An alternate solution would be to establish shelters at the triangle of Torrance Blvd. and Sartori Ave. to be used in lieu of a Terminal. This is a rather central location and convenient to most people. It would be necessary to eliminate six metered parking spaces if this site was chosen. These particular parking spaces are not widely used.

"Another alternate would be to establish a Terminal in the old City Hall. To properly handle the buses at this location it would be necessary to eliminate sixteen parking spaces. The entrance or departure of buses on Cravens Avenue would create a problem, due to the narrow street and the often congested traffic in this area.

"It should be noted that most transit companies, such as Santa Monica, Culver City, Gardena and Montebello, do not maintain Terminals. In the entire Metropolitan Transit Authority system, only two terminals are maintained. These are used for the long hauls to outlying cities."

Councilman Blount suggested this be referred to the Council's Bus Committee, and that they meet with Mr. Chamberlain on it.

Mayor Isen asked the City Manager to refer this to them, and to have Mr. Chamberlain meet with the Committee on it, there being no objections. This was requested to be arranged very soon.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT:

1. With a memo dated December 26, 1958, Planning Director Powell submitted to the Council the recommendation for approval of the Planning Commission on Case No. 491, a Change of Zone on the property in Tract 24599, Geo. Bloxom et al.

Mr. Powell was present, and told the Council the Tract had been approved under a Variance, which was granted. This Change of Zone is to conform to the land use.

Councilman Blount said he wanted to know the roll call on the Variance, and that he had asked for this on other similar cases.

Mayor Isen called this to Mr. Powell's attention, saying the Council would like to have the vote noted for them in these matters.

Councilman Jahn moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission for approval of Change of Zone in Case No. 491.

Motion seconded by Councilman Drale, and carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Bradford, Drale, Jahn, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEN: Blount. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Beasley.

2. With a memo dated December 26, 1958, Planning Director Powell requested that dates be set for the Third and Final Hearings on the following cases:

CASE NO. 544: Petition of Daniel and Emma Smith, 617 So. Highland, Fullerton, for a Change of Zone from A-1 to R-1 on a portion of the N. half of the W. half of Lot 69, McDonald Tract, adjoining and easterly of Arlington Ave. at approximately 186th St., requested for the purpose of developing this property into single family residential lots.

COMMITTEE: Chairman Uyeda, Fleetwood, Mulvihill.

CASE NO. 549: Petition of the Torrance Planning Commission for a Change of Zone on Lots 1 thru 13 inclusive; 16, Lot 21 through 24 inclusive; 41 through 44 inclusive of Tract 2895; Lots 1 thru 4 inclusive; 21 through 28 inclusive and Lots 45 through 48 inclusive of Tract 3218, situated at Valerie to Henrietta and Torrance Blvd., to Del Amo Blvd., in the Victor Tract. Request for Change of Zone from M-1 to establish a new zoning pattern.

There were no objections, and Mayor Isen set 5:30 P. M. Tuesday, January 20, 1959, in this Council Chamber as the time, date and place for the Third and Final Hearings on these Cases.

REPORTS:

1. The office of the City Clerk advised the Council that the reports of the General Manager and Chief Engineer and of the Controller for the Metropolitan Water District for the month of November are on file in that office.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT:

1. A December 23, 1958, letter from the Luminart Neon Co., signed by Ludwig Trinast, submitted plans for a new sign for the Denny's Coffee Shop, location at 1882 Torrance Blvd., and requested consideration of it. They gave their reasons for requesting the sign, which is larger than the roof sign permissible.

A memo from Lee Schlens, Supt. of Bldg., was appended, and stated that the sign area is 158 sq. ft., and exceeds the area for a roof sign permissible without Council approval.

Mayor Isen asked if allowing this would be consistent with other action of the Council, and Mr. Schlens said it would.

Mr. Schlens went on to say that if this was at the front of the building, it would not require Council approval.

Councilman Blount moved this request be granted.

Motion seconded by Councilman Draile, and carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present (Beasley absent).

RESOLUTIONS:

1. With a cover letter dated December 26, 1958, the City Attorney at the request of Mayor Isen submitted a Resolution declaring the City's intention to serve water to Tract No. 22228 (Donald Wilson, Subdivider) and to all future tracts in the City.

Mayor Isen said this was on the Agenda at his request, made at the last meeting, concerning our right to serve Tract 22228 and to condemn their 'right to serve'; he pointed out that the Councilmen had each received this evening a copy of a December 30, 1958, letter from T. V. Tallon, Gen. Mgr. and Chief Engineer of the Dominguez Water Corp., 21718 South Alameda, Long Beach. He directed that the letter be spread in the Minutes in full, and it is herewith:

FROM: DOMINGUEZ WATER CORPORATION, 21718 So. Alameda St., Long Beach, California; Telephone: NEvada 6-2128, TErMinal 4-6439.

DATED: December 30, 1958

ADDRESSED TO: Torrance City Council, Torrance City Hall, Torrance, California.

"Gentlemen:

"On Monday, December 29, 1958, our counsel, Messrs. Cosgrove, Cramer, Diether & Rindge, were informed by the City Attorney, Stanley E. Remelmeyer, Esq., by telephone, that the City Council, on Tuesday, December 30, 1958, intends to consider passage of a resolution in substantially the form of which a copy is attached herewith.

"Respecting Section 1 thereof, declaring Council's intention to serve Tract No. 22228 with water supplied by Torrance Municipal Water Dept., you are advised that Dominguez Water Corporation as a public utility in whose certificated service area such tract lies, intends to serve such tract with water by agreement with its subdivider, Mr. Don Wilson, pursuant to its Tariff filed with the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California. You also are informed that Mr. Don Wilson acquired such property under an express agreement that Dominguez Water Corporation would serve water to such tract.

"Respecting Section 2 thereof, declaring Council's intention to serve all future tracts in the City of Torrance with water supplied by the City of Torrance Water Department, you are advised that Dominguez Water Corporation intends to serve any and all future tracts lying within its certificated service area with water upon request by and agreement with the subdividers thereof so to do, and pursuant to such Tariff.

"Respecting Section 3 thereof, the extension of courtesies set forth therein to Dominguez Water Corporation is appreciated."

Very truly yours,

DOMINGUEZ WATER CORPORATION

By: T. V. Tallon

General Manager and Chief Engineer.

Mayor Isen declared a recess at 5:48 P. M., lasting until 6:00 P. M.

Councilman Blount moved that in view of the seriousness of this, and view of the very fact that we now have several thousands of dollars worth of litigation in progress, and because he does not like some of the wording in the Resolution and would like to have a meeting of the Council with the City Attorney and the Water Dept. Supt. to discuss this, that this Resolution be tabled for at least two weeks, and that in the meantime such a meeting as he has mentioned here be arranged.

Motion seconded by Councilman Drale.

Mayor Isen directed that such a meeting be arranged for sometime during the next week, as there were no objections.

Mayor Isen suggested to the City Manager that if the Council has a short Agenda next week the meeting might be held after the next Council meeting, and that in such case Mr. McVicar should be here by not later than 6:00 P. M.

Councilman Jahn said he would be in Sacramento next week to attend the inauguration of the Governor, but had several questions which he would be glad to write out and send for such a meeting if there were no objections.

There were no objections.

ORDINANCES:

1. With a cover letter dated December 26, 1958, the City Clerk submitted for its second reading Ordinance No. 1054, which was approved at its first reading by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Bradford, Drale, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley and Jahn. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Jahn said the cover letter was incorrect, and that he had made the motion on this Ordinance and it was correctly reflected in the Minutes of the last meeting.

Councilman Jahn moved that the cover letter be stricken as submitted, and there were no objections and it was so ordered.

Councilman Jahn moved that after the Clerk has given a number and

read the title to any ordinance or resolution on tonight's agenda, the further reading thereof be waived; reserving and guaranteeing to each Councilman the right to demand the reading of any such ordinance or resolution in regular order.

Motion seconded by Councilman Drale and carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present (Beasley absent).
Deputy City Clerk Whitacre read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 1054

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ESTABLISHING CERTAIN TRAFFIC CONTROL MEASURES PURSUANT TO ARTICLE IV, SECTION 17.35 OF "THE CODE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, 1954".

Councilman Jahn moved for adoption of Ordinance No. 1054 at its second and final reading.

Motion seconded by Councilman Bradford, and carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present (Beasley absent).

2. With a cover letter dated December 26, 1958, the City Clerk submitted for its second reading Ordinance No. 1055, approved at its first reading on December 23 by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Bradford, Drale, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Jahn. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Deputy City Clerk Whitacre read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 1055

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ESTABLISHING CERTAIN TRAFFIC CONTROL MEASURES PURSUANT TO ARTICLE IV, SECTION 17.35 OF "THE CODE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, 1954."

Councilman Benstead moved for adoption of Ordinance No. 1055 at its second and final reading.

Motion seconded by Councilman Blount, and carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Bradford, Drale, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Jahn. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Beasley.

Councilman Drale referred back to the communication from the State about traffic signals on Arlington and 3-phase signals on Crenshaw, and asked whether we should not have ordinances on them.

This was discussed, and it was agreed that when the time has come to prepare these, the City Attorney will do so.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

1. The City Manager expressed his hope that all have a happy and prosperous new year.

2. The City Attorney presented to the Council a Resolution which he had prepared at the behest of Councilman Beasley. This called for the All-Women Transcontinental Air Race, Inc., to accept the invitation of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce to hold the start of the 1960 Power Puff Derby at the Torrance Municipal Airport.

The City Attorney said Mr. Egan had informed him there would be some expenditure necessary on the part of the City, but a gentleman from the Chamber of Commerce had said the Chamber would pay this. The Attorney emphasized that this was only hearsay information, and that he had no information of his own knowledge in the matter.

Councilman Benstead suggested this be held for a week to find out.

Mayor Isen said he had inquired into this; it had been intended that some Airport Funds would be used, but there was nothing official on it and he thought this had come from the Airport Commission rather than the Council.

Councilman Jahn thought that the Chamber of Commerce would handle most of the financing, and would accept donations from the business people in that area for it. Only a portion of the money needed would from the Airport Fund. He said he was in favor of this, and does not think it would cost the Fund much.

Councilman Drale thought this Resolution was just to give weight to the bid, and said he concurred with Councilman Jahn.

Mayor Isen thought the advertising would be worth whatever expenditure is necessary.

Councilman Benstead wanted to have something in writing to tell him where the money is coming from.

Councilman Blount said the Resolution does not call for any expenditure of money.

Councilman Benstead asked why this could not be held a week.

The City Attorney thought there was an imminent closing date on the bids, and the Mayor agreed.

Deputy City Clerk Whitacre read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 3611

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, URGING THE ALL-WOMEN TRANSCONTINENTAL AIR RACE, INC. TO ACCEPT THE INVITATION OF THE TORRANCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO HOLD THE START OF THE 1960 POWDER PUFF DERBY AT THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL AIRPORT.

Councilman Jahn moved for adoption of Resolution No. 3611.

Motion seconded by Councilman Drale, and carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Bradford, Drale, Jahn, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEN: Benstead. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Beasley.

Councilman Benstead said he would not vote on this until he was sure where the necessary money would come from.

3. Mr. Donald W. Mansfield expressed his deep appreciation for the wonderful way the City Council has treated him during his years with the City, and said he thought the City most fortunate to have 7 such dedicated public servants, and said he had appreciated service in the City and serving the people of Torrance.

4. Councilman Benstead extended his hope that all have a happy and prosperous new year.

5. Councilman Blount said that Mr. Mill of the Chamber of Commerce had written a letter saying they had received many requests from the citizens of the area to have our float brought back from the Tournament of Rose, and he believed it would be courteous to do so. We would be required to provide an escort and make towing arrangements to bring it here on Saturday, January 3, until January 5. If we do bring it back, after the thousands of hours of labor which have been expended on it, and leave it overnight without a guard it will be useless.

Councilman Blount moved that we provide the necessary towing and escorts to bring our float home from the Tournament of Roses parade, and that we provide overnight guard service for it, bringing it home on January 3 to January 5, and he suggested it be brought to the park on El Prado where all citizens might view it.

Motion seconded by Councilman Benstead, and carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Drale, Jahn, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEN: Bradford. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Beasley.

6. Councilman Bradford extended his wishes to all for a happy and prosperous new year.

7. Councilman Drale said last week we had asked the City Manager to contact the Pacific Electric about beautification of the Torrance Blvd. entrance to the City; he said there is also a similar problem on their right of way on Dominguez and Crenshaw and on Sartori between Torrance Blvd. and Del Amo or 203rd Street. He suggested that should also be improved in the interests of the City, and that the City Manager make some type of overture or recommendation to them on that area.

Councilman Drale wished everyone a happy and prosperous new year.

8. Mayor Isen said the old City Hall building would soon be vacant again, with the exception of the space used by our recreation department and the small space reserved temporarily by the District Attorney's office. He is aware, as is the entire Council, he said, that the Recreation Department needs space desperately, and the space is almost perfect for their use.

The Mayor said the Chamber of Commerce also needs more space, and he suggested that the Councilmen think of the availability of the Old City Hall and the fact that there is ample space there which would require little remodelling for this use. They have been so active and worked very hard, and they really need more space. The space they have now could be leased or sold or put to other use.

9. Councilman Drale moved all bills properly audited be paid. Motion seconded by Councilman Blount, and carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present (Beasley absent).

The meeting adjourned at 6:17 P. M.

A. H. Bartlett, City Clerk of the City of
Torrance, California

By

Gale Whitacre
Deputy City Clerk

APPROVED:

Albert Isen
Mayor of the City of Torrance